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MEDICAID



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TERMINATION OF ST. LOUIS CITY GENERAL RELIEF LOCK-IN PROGRAM

Effective June 30, 2001 the Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services (DMS) will end the St. Louis City General Relief program that has been in effect since 1981. Beginning July 1, 2001 St. Louis City General Relief recipients will no longer be required to receive health care through, or receive authorization for services, from the St. Louis City Department of Health and Hospitals.

Beginning July 1, 2001 General Relief recipients (ME code "09") who reside in the city of St. Louis (county 115) may use the red Medicaid ID card to access health care. An ID card does not guarantee benefits. *It is important that the provider always check eligibility and the Medicaid Eligibility (ME) code on file for the date of service. The ME code helps the providers determine program benefits and limitations.*

Individuals age 21 and older who receive health benefits under the General Relief program (ME code "09") are eligible for these services:

- Inpatient Hospital (limited to 21 days)
- Outpatient Hospital
- Laboratory and X-Ray
- Physician Services
- Prescribed Drugs and Medicines
- Ambulatory Surgical Care
- Dental Care for Trauma and Disease Only
- Optical Care for Trauma and Disease Only
- Psychiatric Services in an Acute or General Care Hospital
- Emergency Ambulance
- Orthopedic Devices
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Prosthetic Devices
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Services
- CSTAR
- Rehabilitation Center

The following services are not covered for General Relief eligibles age 21 and older:

- Non Emergency Medical Transportation
- Nursing Facility Care
- General Dental Care Including Dentures
- Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- General Optical Care Including Eye Glasses
- Inpatient Services in a Psychiatric Hospital
- Any Service Under a Home & Community Based Waiver
- Personal Care
- Transplants
- Adult Day Health Care
- Comprehensive Day Rehabilitation
- Podiatry
- Audiology Serviced Including Hearing Aides

General Relief recipients under the age of 21 are not subject to the limits described above and they are eligible for the same medical services that any other child eligible for MC+ for Kids or Medicaid may receive, when medically necessary. Refer to program manuals available on the Internet at www.dss.state.mo.us/dms for information on benefits and limitations applicable to General Relief program recipients.

Providers may begin billing the Medicaid fiscal agent, Verizon, directly for General Relief-covered services for dates of service July 1, 2001 and after. Claims for services furnished to a St. Louis City General Relief recipient before July 1, 2001 should be submitted to the St. Louis City Department of Health and Hospitals for reimbursement.

MC+ MANAGED CARE

The policy updates contained in this bulletin apply to the MC+ and Medicaid fee for service programs only. If you are a provider with any MC+ managed care plan, please refer to policies and billing instructions supplied by the health plan for services provided to their enrollees.

VENTILATION ASSIST AND MANAGEMENT

Effective for dates of service beginning July 1, 2001 procedure codes 94656 and 94657 cannot be billed with Types of Service (TOS) E and H. Providers must bill using TOS 1.

ELIMINATION OF W1-OFFICE SURGERY MODIFIER

In the past, Missouri Medicaid identified certain office surgical procedures which could be performed in the physician's office, by use of the "W1" modifier. Missouri Medicaid reimbursement for the office surgery with the "W1" modifier included physician's service and ancillary costs associated with performing the procedure in an office setting.

Missouri Medicaid will no longer cover the office surgeries with the "W1" modifier. Effective for dates of service beginning July 1, 2001 surgical procedures performed in a physician's office must be billed using the CPT surgical procedure code **without the "W1" modifier**. Supplies and materials provided by the physician above those usually included with an office visit may be billed using the appropriate supply code.

VACCINE FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

Medicaid enrolled providers **must** participate in the VFC Program administered by the Missouri Department of Health and must use the free vaccine when administering vaccine to qualified Medicaid eligible children.

Through the VFC Program, federally provided vaccines are available at no cost to public and private providers for eligible children ages **0 through 18 years of age**. Providers are encouraged to follow the age guidelines given by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) when possible.

Children that meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for VFC vaccine:

- **MEDICAID ENROLLED**—means a child enrolled in the Medicaid Program
- **UNINSURED**—means a child has no health insurance coverage

- NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE—means those children as defined in the Indian Health Services Act
- UNDERINSURED—children with health insurance which does not cover immunization may receive VFC vaccines at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

Providers, except those enrolled as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), may bill for the administration of the free vaccine by using the appropriate procedure code(s) found in the Physician's Manual under "VFC Administration Codes." The Medicaid reimbursement for the administration is \$5.00 per component. The administration fee(s) may be billed in addition to a Healthy Children and Youth (HCY) screen, a preventive medicine service, or to an office visit if a service other than administration of a vaccine was provided to the child.

Immunizations given to a Medicaid recipient over the age of 18 must be billed using the standard procedure for billing injections. Physicians, clinics, and advanced practice nurses should bill on the Pharmacy Claim form using the national drug code (NDC). Refer to Section 13.24.B of the Physician Provider Manual for additional billing information.

FQHC AND RHC CHANGES

Procedure code 99432YG is no longer a valid code. Effective for dates of service beginning April 1, 2001 procedure code 99432 must be billed without the "YG" modifier.

Effective for dates of service beginning September 8, 2000, FQHCs and Provider-based RHCs may bill the following injection codes: J0696, J0697, J1000, J1060, J1070, J1080, J1380, J1390, J1410, J1435, J1440, J1441, J1470, J1630, J1885.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home-school-community partnership which supports parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teachers. Every parent of a child age 5 or under is eligible for PAT, regardless of income. PAT services include personal visits from certified parent educators, group meetings, developmental screenings and connections with other community resources from the time the child is born until he/she enters kindergarten.

PAT Programs collaborate with other agencies and programs to meet families' needs, including Head Start, First Steps, the Women Infants and Children Program (nutrition services), local health departments, the Division of Family Services, etc. Independent evaluations of PAT show that children served by this program are significantly more advanced in language development, problem solving, and social development at age 3 than comparison children, 99.5% of

participating families are free of abuse or neglect, and early gains are maintained in elementary school, based on standardized tests.

The PAT program is administered at the local level by each public school district in the state of Missouri. Families interested in PAT may contact their local district directly or call the Early Childhood Section of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at (573) 751-2095. PAT also accepts referrals from other sources including medical providers. Providers who have contact with families with children age 5 and under are encouraged to refer those families to PAT. Additional information about PAT is available at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website at www.dese.state.mo.us. (look under Programs and Services A-Z, then Early Childhood Education, then PAT & ECDA).